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Significant Changes to 2014 Regulations and Statutes for Big Game, Small Game, Game Birds, Gray Wolf and Wild Bison Hunting Seasons

The following is a summary of the significant changes to hunting regulations and statutes for the 2014 hunting seasons for big game, small game, game birds, gray wolves and wild bison. Minor/annual changes (i.e. license quotas, season dates, hunt area boundary changes, limitations, doe/fawn license issuance, etc.) are not addressed in this document.

Please refer to the 2014 individual species hunting regulations for the current regulatory language and requirements. All Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regulations may be viewed on the Department's website at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Changes

General Hunting Regulation

- Several changes were made to this regulation to combine common terms/definitions used throughout other hunting regulations. This reduced duplication among several regulations.
- Changes were made to the “shooting hours” section of Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulations, to incorporate shooting hours for all big game, small game, trophy game, upland game birds and wild turkey hunting into one regulation.
- Information regarding the Hunter Mentor Program was added to this regulation.

Antelope Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates, limitations and hunt area boundaries for some hunt areas.
- Antelope Hunt Areas 34, 35 and 36 were combined into a new Hunt Area 34. Hunt Areas 38, 39, 40 and 104 were combined into a new Hunt Area 38.
- New boundary descriptions are provided for Hunt Areas 34 and 38.

Deer Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates, limitations and hunt area boundaries for some hunt areas.
- Deer Hunt Areas 15, 16, 55 and 57 were combined into a new Hunt Area 15.
- A new boundary description is provided for Hunt Area 15.

Elk Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates, limitations and hunt area boundaries for some hunt areas.
- Elk Hunt Areas 5 and 6 were combined into a new Hunt Area 6.
- Elk Hunt Areas 50, 52, 65 and 121 were combined into new Hunt Areas 51, 53 and 54.
- New boundary descriptions are provided for Hunt Areas 6, 51, 53 and 54.
- Changes were made to Special Archery Season provisions allowing some hunt area license types to hunt the entire hunt area during the special archery season.

Moose Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates, limitations and hunt area boundaries for some hunt areas.
- Moose Hunt Area 33 will be open for the 2014 hunting season and will be hunted in combination with Hunt Areas 36 and 40.

Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates, limitations and hunt area boundaries for some hunt areas.
- Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Season regulations were combined into a single regulation governing Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons; now Chapter 9.
- Separate hunting seasons have been maintained for these species.
- The old Chapter 24, Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons, was repealed.
- Bighorn Sheep Hunt Area 21 will be open for the 2014 hunting season and will be hunted in combination with Hunt Area 18.

Wild Bison Hunting Regulation

- All reference to the Wild Bison Priority List was removed from regulation. This change requires a person to apply online and submit the required license fees between January 1 and February 28. The Department will now conduct a limited quota license drawing for wild bison licenses. Wild bison hunting licenses will continue to be issued through a limited quota drawing in subsequent years.
- Regulatory provisions referring to a person harvesting a wild bison after January 31, 2001, from being eligible to receive another wild bison hunting license in any future year have been removed.

Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates and limitations in some hunt areas.
- All upland game bird and small game hunting season regulations have been combined into one regulation, but will continue to maintain individual species hunting seasons and bag limits. Previous regulations for Chapter 11, Sage Grouse Hunting Seasons; Chapter 12, Blue and Ruffed Grouse Hunting Seasons; Chapter 13, Partridge Hunting Seasons; Chapter 17, Small Game Hunting Seasons; Chapter 18, Pheasant Hunting Seasons; and, Chapter 19, Sharp-Tailed Grouse Hunting Seasons, have been combined into a new Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Seasons.

- The previous regulation chapters for blue and ruffed grouse, partridge, small game, pheasant and sharp tailed grouse have been repealed.
- Excluding pheasants, one fully feathered wing shall remain naturally attached to the carcass of any upland game bird in the field and during transportation.

Wild Turkey Hunting Regulation

- Changes to season dates and limitations in some hunt areas.
- Hunt area boundaries have been changed and the number of hunt areas has been reduced from 11 to 5.

Early Game Bird Hunting Regulation, Late Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulation and Light Goose Conservation Order

- Changes were made to the process of applying for or receiving Limited Quota Sandhill Crane Permits and General Sandhill Crane Permits.
- The daily bag limit for canvasback ducks was reduced from 2 to 1.
- Hunters in the Central Flyway can harvest 2 additional blue-winged teal during the first 16 days of the duck season.

Gray Wolf Hunting Regulation

- Mortality quotas by hunt area were modified to correspond to current gray wolf populations and management strategies.
- Hunt Area 7 was re-opened with a mortality quota of 1.

Wyoming Statute Changes

- **W. S. 23-2-106 Hunter Safety; exceptions**, was changed to allow the following provisions:

a person without a hunter safety certificate may apply for more than one special authorization to hunt with a mentor;

a mentor shall not provide supervision for more than one (1) person, other than immediate family members, at a time in the field;

an exemption from hunter safety requirements is provided for any active member, honorable discharged past member or veteran of the armed forces of the United States, and any active or retired Wyoming peace officer qualified pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-707. Qualified applicants may apply for a Hunter Safety Exemption at Regional Offices or Game and Fish Headquarters. Applications are available on the Department's website at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov> or at Department offices.